

REMARKS

The office action of February 7, 2006, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Lay in view of the patent to Erickson.

In view of the Examiner's rejection of the claim, applicant has amended claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the claim presently on file differs essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

The Examiner has merely repeated the rejection made in the last Office Action.

Turning now to the references, both of the cited references have been discussed in detail in previously filed amendments and it is submitted that those comments remain relevant and are incorporated herein by reference in order to avoid redundancy. According to the presently claimed invention the valve housing is

PR-47

made of a high density polyethylene and the male part of the quick disconnect coupling is made of glass fiber-reinforced high density polyethylene.

The high density polyethylene gives the housing a slight elasticity which makes possible the tight sealing of the flap 3 of the flap valve due to the elastic spreading of the valve seat of the valve housing 2 in the closed position of the flap 3.

The glass fiber-reinforced high density polyethylene material of the male part of the quick disconnect coupling makes possible a tight connection of the flap valve with a discharge hose, on whose connection end the female part of the quick disconnect coupling is provided.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither of these references, nor their combination, teach a tapping valve as recited in the claim presently on file.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

PR-47

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 8, 2006.

By: 
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: May 8, 2006